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NSC BRIEFING

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15 NOVEMBER 1955

BRITAIN AND CYPRUS

I. British expect resume talks with Archbishop Makarios soon, but they are still not able to offer major concessions.

A. Governor Harding continuing anti-terrorist measures. Plans shortly make some announcement about economic development.

B. British want ad hoc arrangement to quiet nationalists without breaking down British control.

1. Foreign Office says "dominion status" out of the question, not being considered.

a. Cyprus unready for Commonwealth membership.

b. Commonwealth members would object.

c. Neither Greeks or Cypriots would take it as permanent solution.

DOCUMENT NO. 39  
☐ NO CHANGE IN CLASS  
☐ DECLASSIFIED  
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS  
AUTH: HR 70-2  
DATE: 2010  
REVIEWER: [Signature]  
2010

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II. Britain still standing on its last offer of steps toward internal self-government and indefinite postponement of self-determination.

A. British see little room to maneuver. They cite belligerent Turkish attitude.

B. London sceptical view that prospects some agreement have improved.

1. British believe Makarios will insist on time limit.

2. Greeks have become a little easier on Cyprus issue.

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